(c) In respect of foreign collaboration approval cases, show cause notices have been issued to 89 companies. Replies received from these Companies are under examination.

(d) Advance Licensing Scheme is an important instrument in promoting exports as it helps the exporters in securing imported inputs duty free for manufacture of their export products and thus in becoming more competitive in the International Market. The Scheme has become very popular which is reflected by the upward trend in the receipt of applications for such licences, quantum of export obligations imposed. As already stated the defaults have not been alarming and no chronic abuse of the Scheme has been detected. The Scheme is continuing.

High Duty imposed by Russia on Indian made Foreign Liquor

3308. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Russia has slapped a discriminatory 60 per cent duty on Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) from India adversely affecting the plans of IMFL exporters, despite India enjoying the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status with Russia;

(b) what is the Import duty imposed on IMFL imported into Russia from Non-MFNs (Non-Most Favoured Nations); and

(c) what is Indian Government's reaction to this discrimination in trade relations followed by Russia ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The import duty in the Russian Federation consists of basic Customs duty, excise duty and advalorem which is at a uniform rate of 20% of the value of goods inclusive of Customs duty and excise duty. There is no discrimination against Indian goods in Russia. India apart from being one of the Most Favoured Nations (MFNs) also belongs to the category of developing countries as per Russian regulations and hence the basic Customs duty for Indian goods is half of the duty payable by MFNs. As regards excise duty and advalorem, there are no separate rates for either on the basis of the MFNo or non-FMN or developing/ developed country status.

(c) Does not arise.

Trade between India and Israel

3309. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantum of trade between India and Israel at present; and

(b) what steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by Government to boost Indo-Israel trade in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) During April- November, 1992 India's exports to Israel were Rs. 136.29 crores and India's imports from Israel amounted to Rs. 227.54 crores.

(b) Consequent on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel, Government has decided to normalise trade with Israel, subject to prevailing regulations about inter-action generally with foreign countries. In pursuance of this decision, inter-action between business enterprises of the two countries has already commenced.

Export of Iron Ore

3310. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of country-wise export of Iron ore from India during the current financial year;

(b) the targets fixed for the current year and the achievements likely to be made;

(c) what is India's place in the international iron ore market;